AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace Paragraph [0020] with the following Amended Paragraph:

[0020] The evaluation circuit 37 depicted schematically with its essential components in Figure 1 includes a comparator component 14. Located on the input side 15 of the comparator component 14 is a first comparator input 17 (-) and a second comparator component 18 (+). The first comparator component 17 is connected with the first tap 11, while a supply voltage is applied to the second comparator component 18. Reference number 16 identifies the output of the comparator component 14. A comparator component 14 being acted upon with a bias voltage 19 V_{CC} is preferably used as the comparator component 14 within the evaluation circuit 37. The application of voltage to the comparator component 14 by a bias voltage 19 (V_{CC}) ensues via a first resistor 21 (R_1), a resistor 22 (R_2) connected in parallel with this as well as third resistor 23 (R_3), which is in series with the first resistor 21. The bias voltage 19 (V_{CC}) is ~~[verb missing]~~ transmitted to the comparator component 14 on the input side 15 at the second comparator input 18; a terminal 24 forms the connection location. The threshold input voltage of the comparator component 14 is preset via the bias voltage 19 (V_{CC}) that is acting upon the comparator component 14. The to-be-sensed current I_S is detected at the second tap 12. The to-be-sensed current I_S flows through a resistor R_S (R_{Sense}), which is connected at KS with the line that leads to the first comparator input 17. KS represents a temperature detection point with respect to the first power semiconductor component 7. If this threshold input voltage, which in the case at hand is output to the second comparator input 18 (+), is exceeded by a detected voltage value, then the comparator component 14 switches over its output 16. Switching over the output 16 is identified by an edge change 20. This edge change 20 can be detected by the micro-controller 25 (μC) and counted by it. To do this, the edge changes 20 occurring at the output 16 of the biased comparator component 14 are output to an input 27 on the input side 26 of the micro-controller 25 (μC).